

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. There is not enough space here to truly speak my mind on how I feel about what our government is letting the telephone companies GET AWAY with!!! Phone bills should be easy to read so you can see ALL of the HIDDEN charges including EVERY time AT&T or SBC decide YOU want their long distance service; whether you ask for it or not!! Not to mention all of the taxes that no one can or will explain. It is cheaper to just have a cell phone & a plain DSL line. With the way things look it won't be long and we will be right back to the monopoly they broke up to begin with. We were all a lot better off when we just had AT&T to deal with anyway. At the very least, you knew who you were dealing with and your stock was worth SOMETHING!!!!

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.